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## EXECUTIVE SECRETARIA 7 **ROUTING SLIP** TO: **ACTION** INFO DATE INITIAL 1 DCi 2 DDCI 3 EXDIR 4 D/ICS 5 DDI 6 DDA 7 DDO 8 DDS&T 9 Chm/NIC 10 GC 11 IG 12 Compt 13 D/OLL 14 D/PAO 15 VC/NIC 16 NIO/ECON χ 17 D/OGI χ 18 C/S χ 19 20 21 22 SUSPENSE Remarks פא איו בון ו

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# THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

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# CABINET AFFAIRS STAFFING MEMORANDUM

Date:	5/16/86	_ Number: ˌ	317,	Due By	•	
Subject:	Economic	Policy Co	ouncil Me	eting - May 19,	1986	
	1:00 P.M.	Roosevel	lt Room			
		Action	FYI	T	Amina	EVA
ALL CABINET MEMBERS  Vice President State Treasury Defense Justice Interior Agriculture			CEA CEQ OSTP	Action   Action	FYI	
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**456–2800 (Room 235, OEOB)**Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/02/23 : CIA-RDP88G01117R000602210002-8

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 16, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ECONOMIC POLICY COUNCIL

FROM:

EUGENE J. MCALLISTER EM

SUBJECT:

Additional Paper for the May 19 Meeting

The paper for the third agenda item at Monday's Economic Policy Council Meeting, gray market goods, is attached. The papers on the other items were circulated earlier.

Attachment

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 16, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ECONOMIC POLICY COUNCIL

FROM:

THE WORKING GROUP ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

SUBJECT:

Gray Market Goods

The Economic Policy Council directed the Working Group on Intellectual Property to draft and publish in <a href="The Federal Register">The Federal Register</a> a questionnaire soliciting information on altering the existing Customs Service policy that permits gray market goods to enter the United States where the American and foreign rights to a product trademark are owned by the same or related entities or individuals. Specifically, the Council requested information on the relative merits and costs of requiring that such products be labeled or "demarked", primarily to address consumer-related and free-rider concerns.

The Working Group has not yet published the questionnaire. However, on May 6, the Federal D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals in Coalition to Preserve the Integrity of American Trademarks v. United States held that the Customs policy, based upon its interpretation of section 526 of the Tariff Act of 1930, is invalid. Barring a rehearing by the Appeals Court (an unlikely prospect), the Court will remand the case to the District Court with instructions to issue a declaratory judgment that the Customs Service regulations are unlawful.

In view of this fundamental turn-of-events, the question for the Administration is whether to continue to consider refinements, namely labeling or demarking, to the Customs policy permitting gray market goods, even though that policy may ultimately be reversed, i.e., should the Appeals Court opinion go unchallenged and become final, gray market goods would be prohibited from entering the United States. A split on the matter already exists in the Federal Circuits, making Supreme Court review on the issue more likely.

### Recommendation

A majority of the the Working Group recommends the Administration pursue the following course of action.

Move forward, as previously planned, to solicit through the Federal Register information on the merits and costs of labeling and demarking, but revising the draft to recognize the potential implications of the COPIAT case.

- O Irrespective of the final outcome of <u>COPIAT</u>, the Administration nonetheless requires information on the merits and costs of labeling and demarking to guide it in making a decision and, if necessary, drafting implementing legislation.
- o If the Appeals Court holding in <u>COPIAT</u> becomes final and the Administration does not seek Supreme Court review, gray market goods will likely be prohibited.
- o If that occurs, and the Administration seeks subsequently to restore the Customs policy permitting gray market goods or a policy requiring labeling, we would have to seek implementing legislation.
- On the other hand, if the Appeals Court holding in COPIAT is overruled, e.g., by the Supreme Court, the Administration still eventually must seek legislation should it decide to require specifically that gray market goods entering the U.S. should be labeled.

#### Supreme Court Review

The Solicitor General will be formulating a decision as to whether to seek Supreme Court review of the COPIAT decision. Any comments to the Solicitor General by interested agencies should be made through existing, traditional channels.

- O If the private defendants in <u>COPIAT</u>, and/or the Solicitor General request and receive a review by the Supreme Court, the Customs policy permitting gray market goods could be upheld.
  - -- If the Solicitor General requests review by the Supreme Court, the chances are improved that the Supreme Court will agree to hear the case.
  - -- If the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, which is considering a similar case in Olympus v. United States, upholds the Customs policy permitting gray market goods, this will further improve the chances that the Supreme Court will agree to review the issue.